

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
UNION COUNTY, FLORIDA
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 19, 2016**

NOTE: If any person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record for the proceedings and may need to insure that a verbatim record is made.

PRESIDING: Jimmy Tallman, Chairman

RECORDING: Savannah Chastain, Finance Officer

ATTENDING: Commissioner Willie Croft; Commissioner Woody Kitler; Commissioner Karen Cossey; Commissioner Nettles; Dianne Hannon, Board Secretary; Kellie Connell, Clerk of Courts; Russ Wade, County Attorney

PRESS: Tracy Tate, Union County Times

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairman Tallman.

2. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Commissioner Tallman delivered the invoice and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Leroy Newton came before the Board readdressing the need for High-speed Internet. Secretary Hannon explained that she spoke with a Windstream employee and the employee advised that Windstream customers should persistently contact Windstream with the issue and Windstream may concede in the future. Mr. Newton also explained an issue on SW 83rd Way involving an abandoned house with extreme visible trash that has become a health hazard. He requested for the County to address the issue.

Kathleen Gunter, resident of 20 years, came before the Board regarding a gun shooting issue in her neighborhood on SW 53rd Street. Ms. Gunter explained the safety concerns of this activity, due to 45 established homes in the neighborhood. Mrs. Gunter requested the Board zone the neighborhood as a residential area in order to forbid this type of shooting. She also addressed an issue on SW 52nd Terrace. In 2011, the owner of the home was found in possession of fighting pit-bulls and roosters. He was arrested and the animals have since returned.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Kitler moved to approve the November 21, 2016 Final Public Hearing Meeting Minutes, November 21, 2016 Agriculture Facility Meeting Minutes, November 21, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes, November 22, 2016 Reorganization Meeting Minutes and the 2016-2017 Committees/Boards with an amendment to the date which should be 2016-2017. Also, an amendment to Item 11 on Committees/Boards, in which the members should be Chairman

Tallman and Commissioner Cossey as members with Commissioner Kitler as an alternate. Commissioner Cossey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **FINANCE REPORT**

Commissioner Cossey moved to approve the bills as presented. Commissioner Kitler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk Connell informed the Board of a premium refund from FMIT for \$4,375.

6. **DISCUSSION REGARDING RESOLUTION NO. PZ/LPA M 16-01A**

Attorney Wade read Resolution No. PZ/LPA M 16-01A and stated that it was passed by the Planning and Zoning Board, recommending that Ordinance 2016-03 be adopted. Commissioner Cossey moved to incorporate all comments before, in evidence submitted to Planning and Zoning, into the record of the Union County Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Kitler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **ORDINANCE NO 2016-03-FIRST READING ONLY**

Attorney Wade read Ordinance No. 2016-03. Commissioner Kitler moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2016-03 on First Reading Only. Commissioner Cossey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **JOE STEPHENSON OR ATTORNEY JIM TAYLOR**

Discussion ensued regarding a private road that is maintained by the County. The Board questioned details such as who has access to the road and who uses it. Director Arnold explained that the Resolution for the County to maintain this private road was adopted in 2011. Commissioner Kitler inquired of the taxpayers benefit to maintaining this private road. Attorney Wade explained that 7 years of maintenance would make this road a County Road. Commissioner Cossey questioned Commissioner Nettles of the expense of maintaining this road. Director Arnold explained that allowing maintenance for one private road requires the County to offer this availability to all residents with private roads. Attorney Wade explained that if the road is converted to a County Road, it allows for public access. There is currently green County signage on the road. Commissioner Kitler moved to table the situation and no longer allow the Road Department to pursue road work until the next meeting. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **RESOLUTION 2016-14 COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN**

Director Walker introduced Mr. Doc Bloodworth and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is being offered at no additional cost to the County. Mr. Bloodworth delivered a handout with explanation of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Commissioner Croft moved to adopt Resolution 2016-04. Commissioner Cossey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

10. **POSSIBLE POLICY CHANGE CONCERNING LEAVE TIME**

Chairman Tallman explained that currently the Clerk of Court and Sheriff's offices allow for an employee to choose a buyout plan if over 360 hours of leave is accrued, while County employees lose accrued leave that exceeds 360 hours. Chairman Tallman explained that if an employee knows

they have accrued time which is at risk of being lost, the employee takes the time off which takes a hit on the employer; however, the employee would rather use the accrued time than lose the accrued time. Clerk Connell explained the expense of allowing for a buyout plan and the hit it takes on the Budget. She recommended if the change is approved to allow it to take effect for Budget year 2018 due to not being previously budgeted for in 2017. **Commissioner Cossey moved to revisit the issue prior to 2018 Budget discussions. Commissioner Croft seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

11. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Solid Waste Department – J. Beasley

Director Beasley was absent.

Road Department – S. Arnold, Jr.

Director Arnold had nothing to report at this time.

Public Library – M. Brown

Director Brown was absent. Clerk Connell spoke in place of Director Brown requesting Board approval for an invoice that was received after monthly bills were submitted for \$351.34 for Cengage Learning. **Commissioner Cossey moved to approve the invoice for Cengage Learning for \$351.34. Commissioner Kitler seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

EMS & Volunteer Fire Department – M. Andrews

Director Andrews explained to the Board that operations of the City Fire Department have been put into the responsibility of the County Fire Department. Director Andrews stated that there is an old firetruck located in Raiford that needs to be replaced with a newer one, in order to assure reliability, which is located at a different fire station; however, a larger truck will not fit into the Raiford station. He explained that he spoke with two Masons as well as two other companies and was awaiting further information regarding widening the bay door. Mr. Lamar, Santa Fe Overhead Doors, has viewed the station and offered to widen the bay and install a new bay door for \$5,225. Director Andrews stated the building currently belongs to the City of Raiford in which he requested for Commissioner Kitler to attend a City of Raiford meeting and recommend this change to their Board. By allowing this construction to take place, a truck of approximately 15 years newer will be located in the City of Raiford. Clerk Connell questioned if Budgetary means are available, in which Director Andrews clarified the monies are available in the current budget. **Commissioner Kitler moved to continue forward with process of the project. Commissioner Cossey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.**

Emergency Management – J. Walker

Director Walker had nothing to report at this time.

County Extension Office – D. Nistler

Mr. Nistler was absent.

12. REPORT FROM KELLIE HENDRICKS CONNELL, CLERK OF COURTS

Clerk Connell brought to the Board's attention a more transparent Fund Balance Sheet that was handed out, which will replace the old Cash Balance Sheet. Clerk Connell wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

13. REPORT FROM RUSSELL A. WADE III, COUNTY ATTORNEY

Attorney Wade recommended, as a result of the pending moratorium extension, for the Board to begin making more concrete actions at this time.

14. REPORT FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

District 1 – Karen Cossey

Chairwoman Cossey wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

District 2 – Woody Kitler

Commissioner Kitler wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

District 3 – Jimmy Tallman

Commissioner Tallman wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He also thanked Mr. Whidden, Kenzie Jones, and Director Walker for assisting with the flood planning.

District 4 – Tommy Nettles

Commissioner Nettles wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

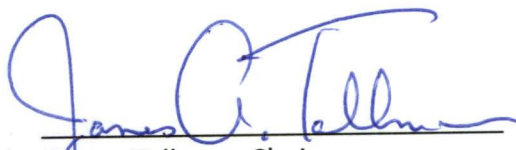
District 5 – Willie Croft

Commissioner Croft wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tallman adjourned the meeting at 7:08 PM.

APPROVED:


Jimmy Tallman, Chairman

ATTEST:


Kellie H. Connell, Clerk of Courts